

## **Lamprey TRC Annual Report November 2006**

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch  
NH Senate President, Theodore L. Gatsas  
Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, W. Douglas Scamman, Jr.  
Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Michael P. Nolin  
and the State Library

November 1, 2006  
by the  
Lamprey River Technical Review Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Lamprey River Technical Review Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2006. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, “The instream flow Technical Review Committees shall make annual reports regarding their progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the state library.”

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Lamprey TRC at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/lamprey.asp?link=meetings&meet=trc>. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the TRC meetings. UNH has a Lamprey Instream Flow Project website at <http://www.unh.edu/erg/lamprey/>.

The Technical Review Committee of the Lamprey Instream Flow Pilot Program intended to meet January 23, 2006 at NH Fish and Game Department offices, but this meeting was postponed until February 13 because of a snowstorm. Normandeau Associates presented the conceptual basis for the assessment of the impacts of groundwater withdrawals on stream flow to be conducted under Task 2 during the coming field season. Also presented were the protected entities, known as IPUOCRs (short for Instream Public Uses, Outstanding Characteristics, and Resources) that would be assessed for their flow needs this year. Assessment methods were determined for each of the flow-dependent IPUOCRs identified. Two assessment methods were described.

The main assessment method named MesoHABSIM is a habitat simulation model that identifies the availability of habitat based on stream flows for representative fish species. The conceptual basis and analytical approaches were described to show the process for turning raw field data into protected flows. Also, described was the assessment method for wetlands and riparian vegetation called the transect method. The transect method compares water levels at a range of stream flows to elevations of riparian vegetation zones on the banks and in the flood plains of the river. Flow needs to sustain the seeding and growth of the native riparian vegetation in these zones will be determined using this method.

No additional meetings were held while the consultant's focused on the field work necessary to complete the protected flow determinations. The next Lamprey TRC meeting will present the preliminary results of this field work.

**LAMPREY RIVER TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)**

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